Amendments to the Claims

This listing replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-12 (cancelled).
- 13. (currently amended) A fastener in combination with a tube for securing said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve and a holding element attached at each end of the tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube and when shortened to slide along the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient.
- 14. (cancelled)
- 15. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 13, further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient.
- 16. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.
- 17. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 16, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.
- 18. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means for embracing a part of the patient.
- 19. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.
- 20. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 19, wherein the pad or flange can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

21-30 (cancelled)

- 31. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 13, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings.
- 32. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 31, wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.
- 33. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 32, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.
- 34. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 31, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.
- 35. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 31, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.
- 36. (currently amended) A fastener in combination with a tube, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve and a holding element attached at each end of the tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube for securing the tube to a patient and when shortened to slide along the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient, the tubular sleeve further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the tubular sleeve is arranged to lengthen and grip the tube when the tube is pulled away from the attachment means.

37-38 (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) In combination, a fastener in combination with a tube as defined in claim 13 and instructions for its use in securing said tube to a patient.

40-46 (cancelled)

47. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 13, wherein said tube is a catheter.

48. (cancelled)

49. (currently amended) A fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube, a holding element attached at a first end of said tubular sleeve and wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient.

50. (cancelled)

51. (cancelled)

- 52. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 49, further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient.
- 53. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 52, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.
- 54. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 53, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.
- 55. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 52, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means for embracing a part of the patient.
- 56. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 52, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.
- 57. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 56, wherein the pad or flange can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

- 58. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 49, wherein an opening is capable of permitting a tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.
- 59. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 58, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.
- 60. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 49, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.
- 61. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 49, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.
- 62. (new) A combination according to claim 13 wherein the tubular sleeve has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar being operable to vary the length of the sleeve.
- 63. (new) A combination according to claim 62, wherein the collar is a ring.
- 64. (new) A combination according to claim 36 wherein the tubular sleeve has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar being operable to vary the length of the sleeve.
- 65. (new) A combination according to claim 64, wherein the collar is a ring.
- 66. (new) A fastener according to claim 49 wherein the tubular sleeve has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar being operable to vary the length of the sleeve.
- 67. (new) A combination according to claim 66, wherein the collar is a ring.
- 68. (new) A combination according to claim 13 wherein the tubular sleeve exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube.

69. (new) A fastener according to claim 49 wherein the tubular sleeve exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube.